

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – AREA BOARD 2**  
**MEETING MINUTES for FEBRUARY 09-10, 2012**  
**Oxford Suites, Chico**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Debbie Anderson (2/10/12)  
Marie L. Blair  
Verdine Mertens  
Rosie Ryan  
Colleen Ryberg  
Steven Sharpe  
Leroy Shipp  
Larry Stevens  
Mike Yalow

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Stephen Conklin  
Jean Phillips

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Brenda Bennett  
Lacy Bennett  
Virgil Blair  
Robert Brown  
Ruth Cowan  
Lee Ann Huston  
Laura Larson  
Jess Modesto  
Erin Pflum  
Theresa Pineda  
Margaret Shipp  
Mathew Shipp  
Candice Spielman

**STAFF PRESENT**

Lisa Aaron-Miller  
Sarah May

**1. CALL TO ORDER – February 09, 2012 – 1:00p.m. – Steven Sharpe, *Chair***

**2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM – Steven Sharpe, *Chair***

Established a quorum present at 1:03 p.m.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Steven Sharpe, *Chair***

Introduction - All introduced themselves.

Announcements - Steven Sharpe, Chair, shared he was re-appointed as Butte County Board of Supervisor's representative to AB2. Lisa Aaron-Miller, AB2 staff, gave an update regarding the NIMBY incident in Area Board 10's region including Disability Rights California's response to incident. In addition, Ms. Aaron-Miller provided board with Form 700 required by the Fair Political Practices Commission for signature.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Margaret Shipp, brought to attention Bagley Keene Section IV, A. Purpose for Which Closed Sessions Can Be Held, and referenced AB'2 By-Laws voting in a public forum. A discussion took place and Sarah May, Executive Director, announced Melissa Corral, Staff Counsel, will be presenting to the board June 8<sup>th</sup> to review and provide training on Bagley Keene Opening Meeting Act – 2012. Robert Brown reported his Governor's appointment interview took place on November 20, 2011 and is hopeful about being appointed to AB2. He also shared Shasta Family Justice Center will host "Camp Hope" for 100 children at Whiskey Lake this summer and Shasta County SELPA's Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be hosting their "Annual Appreciation Dinner on March 15<sup>th</sup>."

**\*5. ACTION ITEMS – Steven Sharpe, *Chair***

**\*A.** Approval of February 10-11, 2011 Agenda –

**MOTION** – The agenda be approved as written.

**M/S/C** – M. Yalow/C. Ryberg/Passed Unanimously

**\*B.** Approval of November 10-11, 2011 Minutes –**MOTION** – The minutes be approved with the deletion of Mathew Shipp as "Others Present."

**M/S/C** – L. Shipp/M. Yalow/Passed Unanimously

**\*C.** Re-appointment of M. Blair as Shasta Co. Board of Supervisors' representative.

**MOTION** – Recommend to affirm the re-appointment of M. Blair as Shasta Co. Board of Supervisors' representative.

**M/S/C** – R. Ryan/C. Ryberg/Passed Unanimously

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE – Colleen Ryberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**

Colleen Ryberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, read a letter, dated 12/20/11, from the Butte County Board of Supervisors regarding re-appointment of Steven Sharpe serving as the representative to the Area Board 2. She also read a letter from Mary Ann Weston thanking the Area Board's support of the Focus Film Festival.

## **7. COUNTY UPDATES – EMERGING ISSUES/NEEDS/RESOURCES – All Members**

Butte County – *Steve Sharpe* shared his sister passed away in December and his niece passed away this month. Even though he is saddened by the loss, he is doing well and is thankful for the support he has received. He also reported Oroville People First is going well but the group is dealing with financial issues.

*Leroy Shipp* shared both he and his wife, Margaret, continue supporting their local Special Olympics; however, the group is currently facing budgetary constraints.

Glenn County – *Mike Yalow* reported on an incident at The Rusty Wagon involving a county health department employee's unprofessional behavior. He and Sarah will be meeting with county personnel to address concerns. Mike also shared The Rusty Wagon is doing well and they hired an additional associate. In addition, Mike reported Crystal Geyser will not be opening a plant in Glenn County as they did not receive county approval.

Plumas County – *Debbie Anderson* reported on 2/10/12 recent changes in the local school system due to budgetary cutbacks. Changes include school closures and consolidations that have caused tension in the community. However, these changes can potentially benefit special education through additional resources being made available for central locations. She also shared her daughter is doing well living at her care home in Chico and both she and her husband are pleased with the care and support their daughter is receiving.

Shasta County – *Marie Blair* shared she and her husband, Virgil, have legal permanent custody of their nieces and nephews. She also gave an update on how her family is doing and reported on the support she receives from various community agencies. Marie also reported she will be selling her artwork at the Region 2 People First Conference in May.

*Rosie Ryan* reported she will be a Keynote speaker at the upcoming Region 2 People First Conference in May and the Consumer Abuse Awareness Team (CAAT) will be speaking in Red Bluff on February 11<sup>th</sup> at Alternatives for Violence as well as at the SCCC in March. She also shared she moved into her new apartment on February 1<sup>st</sup> and Rosie shared that at the February Shasta Co. People First meeting the group will have a fire fighter as a guest speaker.

Tehama County – *Larry Stevens* reported on TCCC's collaborative project, Focus Film's screening "For Once In My Life" on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Red Bluff Community Center. He also reported a free screening of this film will be shown at COVE, in Paradise, on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Larry shared information regarding AB2's lending library including the addition of several new films and encouraged the board to use this valuable resource. He also reported he will be attending an upcoming comedy show, this Saturday, showcasing a variety of comedians with disabilities.

*Verdine Mertens* reported TCCC is currently planning the upcoming "Circle of Champions" luncheon in May and the "Emergency Preparedness Faire" both of which continue to be a success.

Trinity County – *Colleen Ryberg* reported on recent changes in county school personnel. Due to budget constraints, some school personnel including Special Education Aides are now employed by the school district instead of the county and shared how this change has affected both personnel and students.

## **8. SCDD REPORT – Leroy Shipp, AB2 SCDD Representative**

Leroy reported on the Governor's appointment of Molly Kennedy as a member of the State Council representing Area Board 13. He also gave an overview of The California Supported Employment Field Demonstration Project a four year pilot involving four employment agencies supporting persons with developmental disabilities. Leroy was pleased to share Sarah was appointed as AB2's Executive Director. He reported outcomes and positions on recent legislation including AB 254 – Employment First did not pass; however, SCDD hopes to reintroduce bill in the future. Leroy also discussed the Governor's recent budget highlights for several state agencies including DDS, all facing reduction in budgets with increased obligations toward accountability and increased efficiency. He also reported on several sponsorships requests and provided an update on his trip to Washington, D.C., National State Council on Developmental Disabilities, where much of the information and materials shared revolved around employment options for the developmentally disabled. Leroy also attended a discussion with parents affected by the future closure of Fairview Developmental Center in Orange County. The emphasis of the discussion was on resources including State Council, Area Boards, and Regional Center services to ease the transition process for both consumers and parents.

## **9. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATE REPORT – DAY 1**

a. "Work Safe & Self Advocacy" Glenn Co. Office of Education The Rusty Wagon – Candice Spielman, Program Coordinator, gave an update on The Rusty Wagon including the program's new hire, Erin Pflume, Vocational Trainer, made possible through AB2's PDG grant. Erin has been successful in implementing several important trainings for associates at The Rusty Wagon including evacuation preparedness, creating safety ID cards, and doing outreach to local employers on the value of hiring consumers. Jess Modesto, GAP/ROP Department Director, with the Glenn County Office of Education also thanked Mike and AB2 for their support of The Rusty Wagon, and he was pleased to report the program has been well received and is expanding. Candice also provided marketing materials and encouraged board members and staff to visit The Rusty Wagon.

b. "Journey to Adulthood" Rowell Family Empowerment of N. CA – Theresa Pineda, Program Manager, and Ruth Cowan, Transition Parent Consultant, gave an overview of their agency and the services available to families, children, and young adults as well as an update on the Journey to Adulthood training made available through a PDG grant from AB2. The training has been well received by both consumers and families as real-life examples are used as part of the training that is also available in Spanish. Theresa shared there are plans to make the training available in other languages including Hmong as well as making the series available via a webinar to reach additional families. Rowell also will be using media including radio, internet, and social media sites to promote the training and their services. Both Sarah and Robert attended the training and gave positive feedback on their experiences including complimenting Ruth on her training methods.

## **10. RECESS 5:08 P.M. UNTIL 9:00 A.M. FRIDAY, February 10<sup>th</sup> At Oxford Suites, Chico**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – February 10, 2012 – 9:04 a.m. – Steven Sharpe, *Chair***

**2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM – Steven Sharpe, *Chair***

Established a quorum present at 9:05 a.m.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Steven Sharpe, *Chair***

Introduction - All introduced themselves.

Announcements – Sarah provided Board with updated Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act – 2012 materials and reiterated Melissa would be attending meeting in June to provide training. She encouraged Board members to review materials in preparation of training.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**5. FAR NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER – Laura Larson, *FNRC***

Laura Larson, Executive Director, reported on a recent concern that was reported through an unannounced visit at a community day program. FNRC will be providing training with an emphasis on meaningful, age appropriate activities. Laura also reported she recently attended ARCA – Strategic Planning Committee to discuss a service system change grant a five-year project designed to address system issues and services. She also discussed Employment First and how this policy can assist day programs in developing services to support consumers in obtaining meaningful employment. Laura was pleased to report Robin Larson was recently hired to supervise the Intake/Diagnostic Unit. Robin has been with FNRC for 25 years and is well qualified for the position. She also gave an update on the FNRC's "Holidays For Caring" Program. The program received \$15,000 in donations that helped 340 individuals enjoy the holidays. Laura reported on new assessment procedures for SLS and interviews will be conducted by consumers which in return will create seven new jobs. She reviewed FNRC's Non-CPP Purchase of Services Expenses, FY 2011/12 and DDS's 2013 budget. She shared DDS will be hosting stakeholders meetings throughout the state to find solutions to address the \$200,000,000 reduction. Shascade Community Services will no longer provide respite services effective 3/31/12 and with continued 4.25% rate reduction to service providers, there is a real possibility other programs in our region may close. Laura reported other potential system changes including managed health care becoming a reality. FNRC is looking to incorporate additional medical services into their tele-medicine model including behavioral services. Laura reported FNRC staff continues to manage high case loads and additional duties.

**6. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATE REPORT – DAY 2**

a. "FOCUS on Community Development" ~ FNRC's FOCUS Film Festival – Mary Ann Weston, Festival Director, gave an update on FNRC's FOCUS Film Festival and the activities and events benefitted from the AB2 grant. She also shared results of a survey on attendees and feedback has been positive as screenings are raising awareness of the disability field and inclusion. Mary Ann shared information on upcoming events including screenings of "For Once In My Life" at the Red Bluff Community Center and COVE, and a "Not So Still Life" at Sierra Nevada. Mary Ann reported future film festival screenings will return to Chico State University (CSU) and she has received support from CSU from the Diversity Office and Disabled Student Services to help with promotion. In addition, FOCUS Film will be hiring an intern to assist with public relations and other duties.

## **7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Sarah May, AB2 Executive Director**

**a. Advocacy Activities** – Sarah reported on recent advocacy activities and requests for assistance have increased. She shared advocacy calls are initially handled by Lisa who does a preliminary intake to determine appropriate resources or referral. Sarah is currently working with five families, in Butte and Shasta counties, providing advocacy including attending school IEP's, IPP's, ISP's, need for respite services, residential placement, and transition planning. She also voiced appreciation for FNRC's service coordinators who continue to be open and supportive toward working collaboratively with the AB2, consumers, families, and service providers.

**b. Community Outreach/Projects** – Sarah shared that Lisa has updated the Groups & Events flyer to include additional information on board meetings, advocacy resources, and board membership. The new format has been well received by the community and feedback has been positive. Sarah also reported AB2 is involved in Butte and Glenn County SELPA's annual Transition Fair scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> in Chico. The emphasis includes informing students and families about available resources for students transitioning out of high school. She reported AB2 continues to participate in the Shasta County Transition Partnership (SCTP) assisting students transitioning into adulthood and Sarah attended the Regional Transition Leadership Institute, in Corning, on 10/31 and 11/01. The conference was sponsored by California Transition Alliance and Glenn Office of Education (through CalSTAT Grant). Sarah reported AB2 continues to be represented at Butte, Tehama, and Shasta County Coordinating Councils. DAT continues to be an important project of AB2 and was selected to be part of Region 2's People First Conference resource faire.

**c. Regional Self-Advocacy Projects** – Sarah reported AB2 is collaborating with We Care A Lot Foundation and Rowell Family Empowerment of N. California to strengthen local self-advocacy projects with an emphasis on connecting parents and families with self-advocates. She also shared AB2 and Region 2 People First will work together to choose a representative from AB2 region to participate in SCDD's Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN). Region 2 People First will be selecting representative at March 2012 meeting.

## **8. OTHER – Next Meeting ~ April February 12-13, 2012 – Oxford Suites in Redding**

## **9. ADJOURN – 11:34 a.m.**